



Massachusetts Department of Housing & Community Development
FY 2009 LIHEAP Training Conference
Thursday, September 25, through Friday, September 26, 2008
Doubletree Hotel, Lowell, MA





LIHEAP Updates - funding & benefit levels

LIHEAP Funding	Maximum Benefit	% Changed
FY'06 - \$146.42 million	\$1,049	30%
FY'07 - \$ 93.75 million	\$ 689	-34%
FY'08 - \$141.44 million	\$1,165 (O,P,K)	69%
	\$1,065 (Utilities)	57%

There is an obvious correlation between funding and benefit level increases. More \$\$ = more \$\$



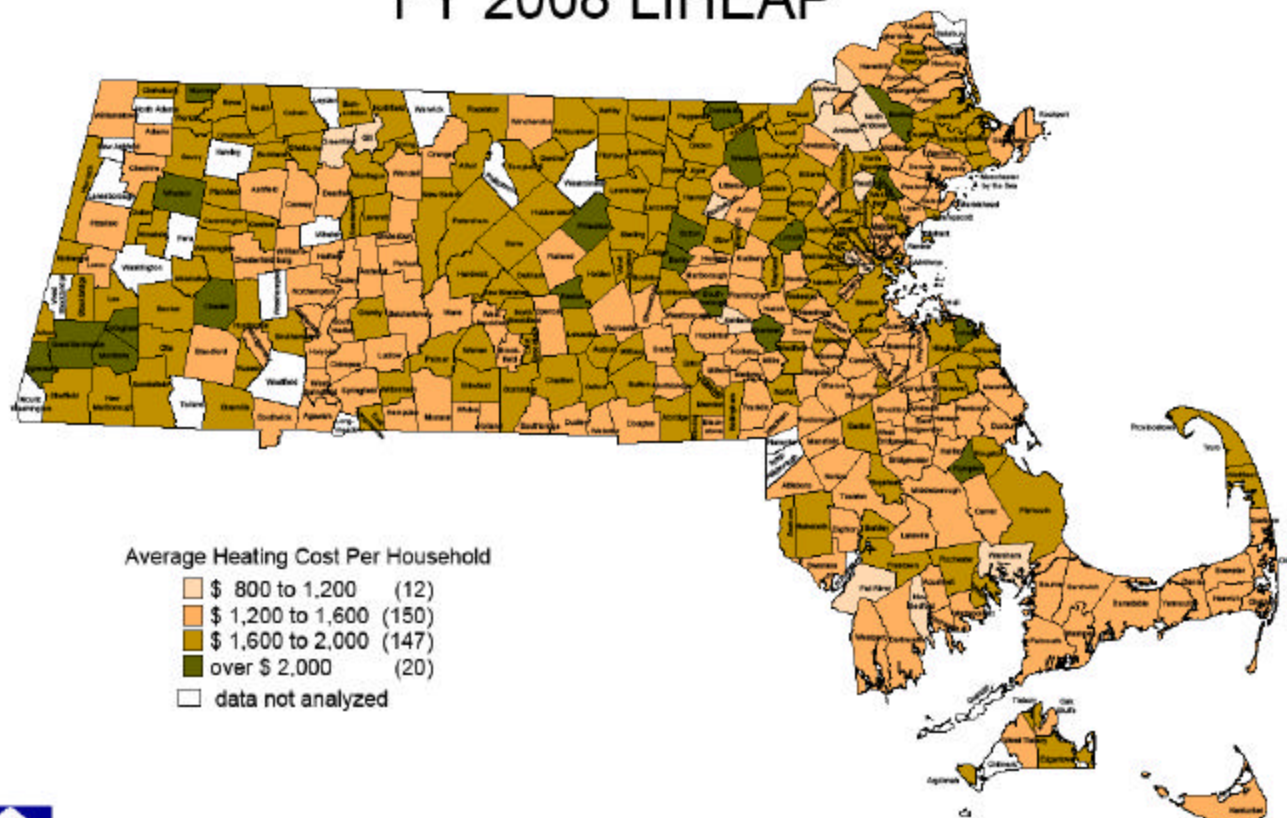
LIHEAP Updates - Oil price increases

- Rising cost of heat reduces “real” LIHEAP benefit.
- On November 1st, \$1,165 = 418 gallons @ MOR of \$2.79 per gallon.
- On May 16th \$1,165 = 259 gallons @ MOR of \$4.50 per gallon.
- Cold temperature burns more heating oil!

Inflationary factors must be taken into consideration during appropriation.

Heating Costs Across the Commonwealth

FY 2008 LIHEAP



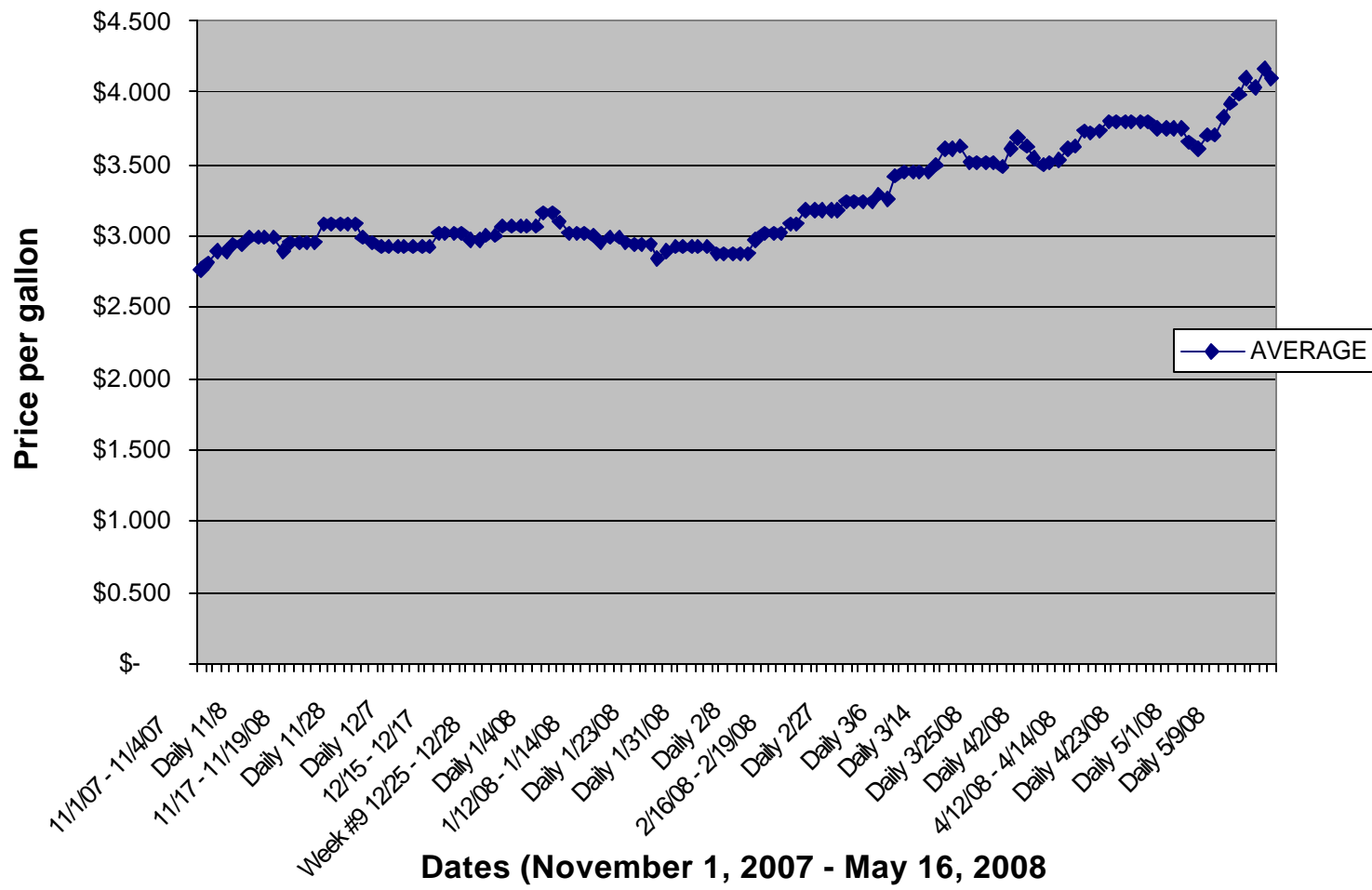


LIHEAP Updates - Heating Cost Summary

- Residents in 150 cities/towns reported an average cost of \$1,200 to \$1,600.
- Residents in additional 147 cities/towns reported an average cost of \$1,600 to \$2,000.

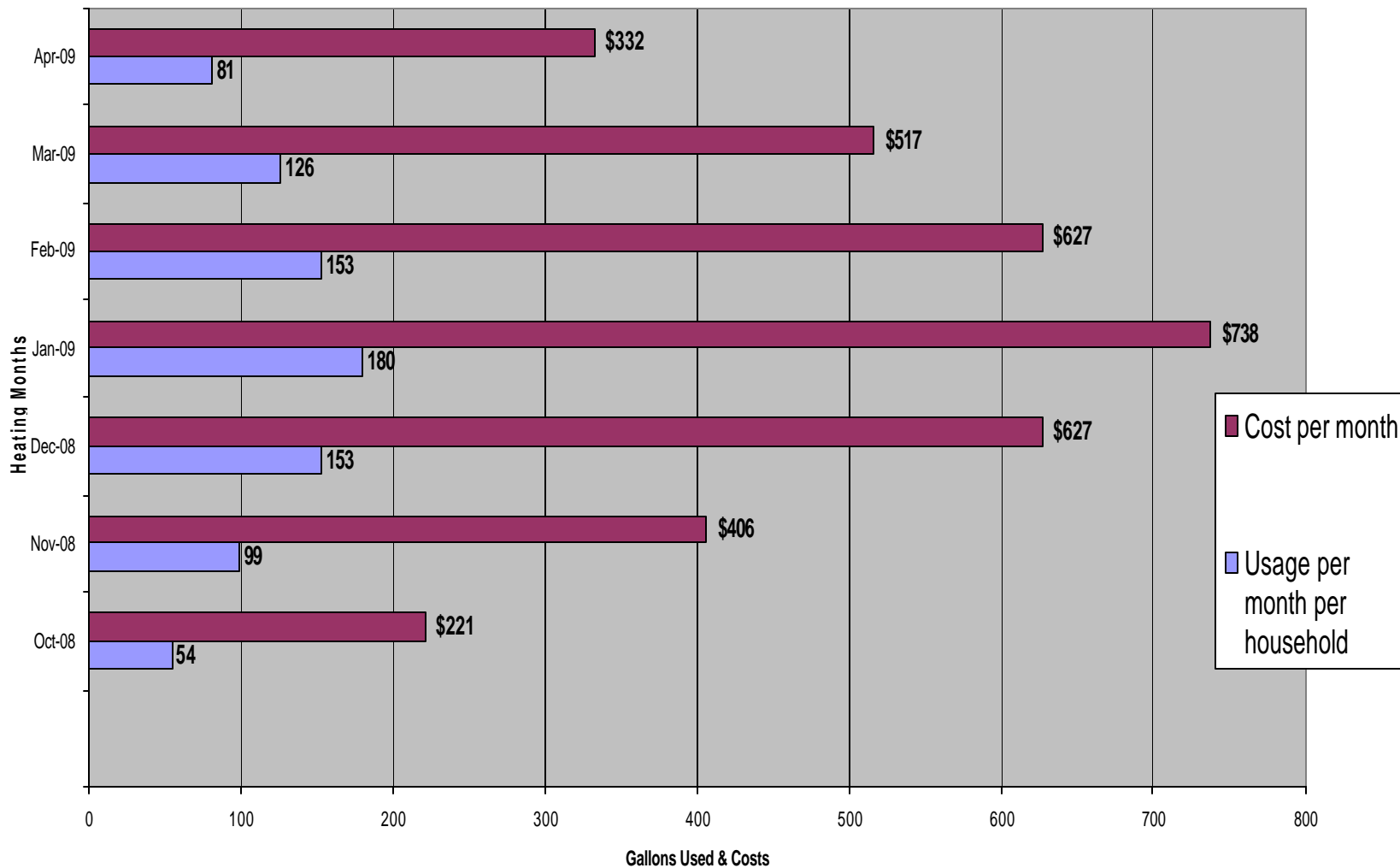
84% of the cities/towns reported an average heating cost between \$1,200 & \$2,000.

LIHEAP (MOR) Average Prices in FY 2008



LIHEAP Updates - FY 2009 Projections

FY 2009 Projections (Based on degree days)





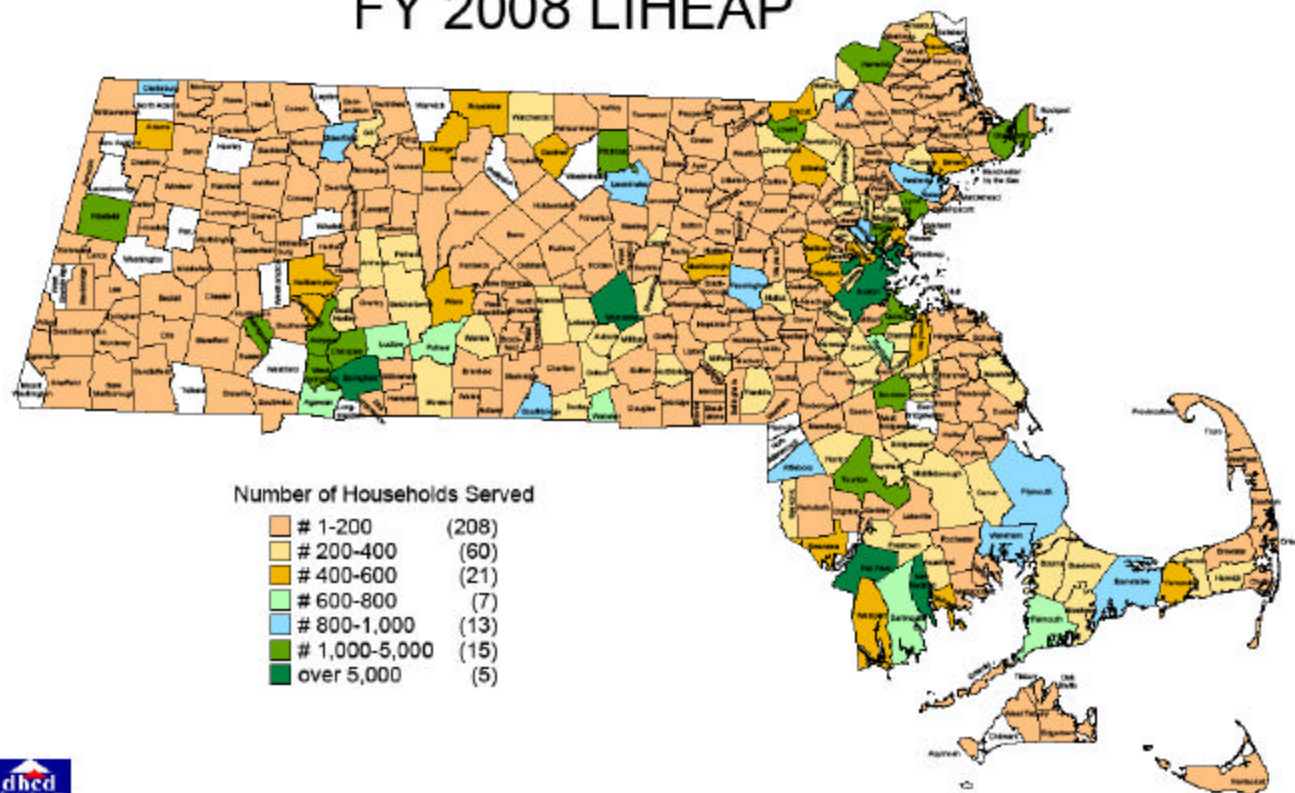
LIHEAP Updates - FY 2009 Projections

- By 2009, energy prices are expected to rise - home heating oil by 31%, residential natural gas by 22%, and electricity cost between 5% and 10%.
- Massachusetts households are expected to spend over \$3,300 in home heating bills in 2008/2009 as compared to \$2,475 in 2007/2008.
- The natural gas and electric heating prices are not expected to increase proportionate to oil price increases but the rates are projected to increase.

Oil prices are expected to increase and are already higher than November 1, 2007 prices.

Households Served Across the Commonwealth

FY 2008 LIHEAP





LIHEAP Updates

- More and more households are applying for LIHEAP - 177,307 (a +2% increase from the previous year).
- More and more first time applicants are looking for LIHEAP assistance - 44,166 in FY 2008 (a +9% increase from the previous year).
- More Food Stamp recipients - 60,813 households last year (a +9% increase from the previous year).
- The average household income of LIHEAP recipients has increased from \$15,000 to \$17,227.
- More and more wage earners are applying for LIHEAP – a +2% increase from the previous year.
- There were 7% more applicants with unemployment income in FY 2008 compared to FY 2007.

These trends point to a troubling economy.



LIHEAP Updates

Census surveys estimate 1.3 million income eligible individuals in MA.

**How can
we
Serve
more
people?**

- Review incomplete LIHEAP applications - there were 15,000 households last year.
- Network with other service providers.
- Internal & external referrals.
- Radio, T.V. and newspaper.
- Oil and Utility companies.
- Municipal governments.
- The school system.
- Private businesses (Human Resources).



LIHEAP Updates

Presented by

Akm Rahman
Senior Information and Program Coordinator
Massachusetts Department of Housing & Community Development
Division of Community Services/Community Services Unit
100 Cambridge Street, Suite 300
Boston, MA 02114
akm.rahman@state.ma.us
www.mass.gov/dhcd